

- 1. The Lithuanian 1st National Division was incorporated into the Russian Army in 1941, together with the entire Lithuanian Army. It was reorganized and brought to full strength. The 1st National Division was made up of Lithuanian refugees who had fled from Lithuania at the approach of the German armies in the summer of 1941. Lithuanian officers were in charge and commands were given in Lithuanian. Russian officers were only on the staff of the commanding general.
- 2. The National Division was used on the Russian central front at critical points, for defense, as well as for attack. Its name was mentioned repeatedly in Russian Army reports, particularly in reports concerning the battles near Orel and Kursk, where it withstood the German onslaught.
- In 1944, the 1st Wational Division entered Lithuania and participated in the battles in the Memel area. In the beginning of 1945, a second division was set up.
- Although almost the entire Division was made up of Lithuanians, there were some detachments which comprised Russians only. These were the so-called "zagraditelnii otradi" (Security detachments) of the "osobi otdel" (special detachments) which existed not only in the Lithuanian Divisions, but in all other Russian divisions. The security detachments were entrusted with keeping up the morale of the troops by means of armed force, if necessary. They were, as a rule, stationed directly behind the front lines, and made sure that no soldier tried to escape. Once an order had been given that a certain position must be held under all circumstances, there was no chance of escape or retreat. The troops were wedged in between the bullets of the enemy and those of the security detachments in the rear. During the battle, the wounded were inspected, and any soldier found to be malingering had the choice of returning to the front lines or of being shot on the spot. This explains why the troops fought to the last man even in the most desperate situations.
- 5. The men were at times so poorly nourished that they suffered from a continual gnawing hungar. The schnapps ration of 200 gr. was always available before battle, however.



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